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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As you may recall, the Security Council, in its resolution 771 (1992) of 13 August 1992, reaffirmed that all parties to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia are bound to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and that persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of international humanitarian law are individually responsible in respect of such breaches. In the same resolution the Council also requested States and international humanitarian organizations to collate substantiated information in their possession or submitted to them relating to violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to make this information available to the Council.

Further, the Security Council, in its resolution 780 (1992) of 6 October 1992, reaffirmed its call made in resolution 771 (1992) for the submission of substantiated information and requested that such information be made available within 30 days of the adoption of that resolution and as appropriate thereafter.

I have been instructed to inform you that the Government of Canada has, accordingly, put in place a procedure to collate available information of the type called for in Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992). An information coordinator has been appointed to collate and assess relevant data. Documentation and reports from both Canadian and international sources are being drawn together into a database. Substantiated information relating to humanitarian law breaches will be made available to you. Canada expects its first report to be submitted early in the new year.

(Signed) Louise FRECHETTE
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

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